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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

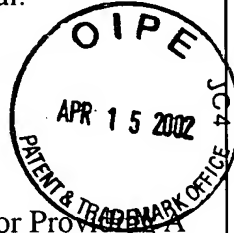
Applicant(s): Kouznetsov et al.

Application No.: 10/057,709

Filed: January 25, 2002

Title: System And Method For Providing A
Framework For Network Appliance
Management In A Distributed
Computing Environment

Attorney Docket No.: 002.0233.01



Group Art Unit: 2151

Examiner: Unassigned

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**DECLARATION OF CASEY LEICHTER ACCOMPANYING
PETITION FOR PATENT APPLICATION FILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.47(a)**

I, Casey Leichter, am a paralegal in the Law Offices of Patrick J.S. Inouye. I am responsible for handling the receipt and sending of written correspondence, including correspondence sent to and received from clients and inventors, via the U.S. Postal Service and other carriers. I receive and send correspondence daily.

On December 21, 2001, per the instructions of Patrick J.S. Inouye, I mailed the following documents ("Documents") to Daniel J. Melchione: (1) U.S. Patent Application entitled, "System And Method For Providing A Framework For Network Appliance Management In A Distributed Computing Environment"; (2) Declaration and Power of Attorney; (3) Assignment; and (4) cover letter from the Law Offices of Patrick J.S. Inouye, dated December 21, 2001 (Exhibit 8). I sent two sets of the Documents to Mr. Melchione to his last known address at 10380 SW 152nd Terrace, Beaverton, Oregon 97007. I sent the original set via Certified Mail with Return Receipt Requested ("Certified Mailing Document Set"). I sent a copy of the original Documents via First Class Mail ("First Class Mail Document Set"). Copies of the Certificate of Mailing and the Certified Mail Receipt for the Certified Mailing Document Set, both dated December 21, 2001, are provided at Exhibit 9.

On January 18, 2002, the U.S. Postal Service notified me that: (1) Notices of Certified Mail were left at Mr. Melchione's above-noted address on December 24, 2001, and January 11, 2002, informing of the arrival of the Certified Mailing Document Set; (2) the Certified Mailing Document Set was held at the U.S. Post Office, Aloha, Oregon branch, pending pickup by Mr. Melchione; and (3) the Certified Mailing Document Set was not picked up by Mr. Melchione. I was told by the U.S. Postal Service that the Certified Mailing Document Set was marked "Unclaimed" and would be returned back to my office in due course.

Around January 31, 2002, the Certified Mailing Document Set was returned back to me in the mail as undeliverable. A stamp on the envelope indicates the package was unclaimed. A copy of the envelope for the Certified Mailing Document Set, indicating the reason for return, is provided at Exhibit 10.

To date, I have not received back the First Class Mail Document Set.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date

April 11, 2002


Casey Leichter